

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05090 311720Z  
ACTION SNM-05

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R 311632Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8262

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SNAR, CO  
SUBJ: NARCOTICS PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS

REF: STATE 102795

1. EMBASSY TENTATIVELY PROPOSES TO TERMINATE AVIATION ADVISOR CONTRACT UPON COMPLETION OF PRESENT BEALL CONTRACT. ADVISOR COULD NOT BE UTILIZED AS PLANNED AT BEGINNING OF CONTRACT WHEN SERVICES WERE MOST NEEDED, BECAUSE OF FAILURE OF GOC TO ORGANIZE OR COORDINATE AMONT ITS ENTITIES AS ORIGINALLY AGREED UPON. IN MEANTIME, SITUATION HAS BEEN SIMPLIFIED WITH AG'S OFFICE TAKING OVER ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF AIR WING, AND BECOMING VIRTUALLY SOLE USER OF AIR WING AS RESULT OF AG'S PREDOMINANT ROLE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING MATTERS WITH HELICOL ARE IN PROCESS OF BEING WORKED OUT AND SHOULD BE FAIRLY ROUTINE WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS SO THAT THIS ASPECT COULD BE HANDLED BY DIRECT HIRE PERSONNEL OF NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT, WHOSE PRESENT WORKLOAD WILL BE LIGHTENED BY ARRIVAL OF TWO U.S. CUSTOMS ADVISORS, EXPECTED HERE IN JUNE OR JULY. AS REGARDS TRAINING, EXPERIENCE WITH HELICOPTERS HAS ALREADY BEEN ACQUIRED, AND FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL SOON ENOUGH TO PROVIDE INITIAL EXPERIENCE WITH THEM. AT THAT POINT, DEA, AS A LOGICAL PART OF ITS TRAINING AND ADVISING FUNCTIONS, COULD AND SHOULD ASSUME MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY IN

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05090 311720Z

TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS. PRESENT PLANS AND FORESEEABLE DEVELOPMENTS DO NOT INCLUDE ANY MAJOR EXPANSION OF AIR-RELATED OPERATIONS THAT WOULD JUSTIFY A CONTRACT ON THE BASIS OF PERMITTING GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN UTILIZATION OF THE ADVISOR'S TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES. IF THE SITUATION CHANGES AND FUTURE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE IT, WE WILL WISH TO HAVE THE OPTION TO REQUEST CONTRACT

SERVICES OF AN AVIATION ADVISOR WHO WILL ALSO HAVE  
BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES AND FLEXIBILITY IN OTHER AREAS  
RELATED TO ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
IN NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT/INTERDICTION.

2. THE REORGANIZATION OF THE GOC NARCOTICS RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND THE COORDINATION OF LAND, SEA, AND AIR ACTIVITIES POSE  
COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS THAT WILL NECESSITATE CONTINUATION  
OF THE SERVICES OF A FULL-TIME TELECOM ADVISOR BEYOND  
JUNE 30, THE DATE THE PRESENT CONTRACT WILL EXPIRE. THE  
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THESE ADVISOR SERVICES BE CONTINUED  
FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY'S POSITION IS  
THAT THE GOC SHOULD EMPLOY TELECOM EXPERTS IN ITS NARCOTICS  
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRE THE TECHNICAL  
SERVICES THAT WILL BE NEEDED LOCALLY. IN FACT, THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL IS NAMING TWO SUCH EXPERTS TO HIS NARCOTICS UNIT  
STAFF. THIS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE ADVISOR TO FILL  
HIS PROPER FUNCTION AND ENGAGE IN INSTITUTION BUILDING AIMED  
AT OBTAINING THE NEED FOR FURTHER TELECOM ADVISOR CONTRACTS.  
IN RECOMMENDING A ONE YEAR CONTRACT, THE EMBASSY IS PROJECT-  
ING THAT AFTER THE INITIAL SIX MONTHS THE CONTRACT ADVISOR  
WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON A PART-TIME BASIS FOR TDY TO NEIGHBOR-  
ING COUNTRIES AS A START TOWARD THE REGIONAL TELECOM ADVISOR  
CONCEPT RAISED IN REFTTEL.

3. AFTER FURTHER REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION, THE EMBASSY  
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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 05090 311720Z

HAS COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT MR. ARNOLD ELLIOT, THE  
PRESENT TELECOM ADVISOR, POSSESSES THE SCOPE OF TECHNICAL  
EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR THE ONGOING PROGRAM AND THAT IT IS  
IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THAT PROGRAM THAT HIS SERVICES  
BE RETAINED. MR. ELLIOT WISHES TO RENEW HIS CONTRACT UNDER  
THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 2, BUT WILL WISH TO  
NEGOTIATE TERMS REGARDING INCREASE IN SALARY, QUARTERS  
ALLOWANCES, EDUCATION ALLOWANCES AND OTHER FRINGE  
BENEFITS ACCORDED TO DIRECT HIRE EMPLOYEES TO THE EXTENT  
THAT SUCH BENEFITS ARE ALLOWABLE FOR CONTRACT EMPLOYEES.  
CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT MR. ELLIOT'S  
CONTRACT BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR AND THAT HE  
DEPARTMENT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ALLOTMENT. IF  
WASHINGTON CONCURS, A FIRM PROPOSAL FOR A NEW CONTRACT  
WILL BE SUBMITTED PROMPTLY.  
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